

incredible lessons of life, the lesson of patience and the lesson of humility.

You forced me to have to walk up and down that Hill 27 years in a row fighting the same old battles. You taught me that I was not a cocky dude, that one guy against 434 could change the world. But if we care about each other and we respect each other and we respect this incredible opportunity we have, together we can change the world.

□ 1400

I learned a concept called homeostasis when I was in college, which said that institutions manage to find a way to come into balance. Well, a member of the Gray Caucus is leaving, and the good Judge from Florida grew a gray beard, so the House is in balance on that issue. An old guy is leaving, and a young African-American is coming to be sworn in today. This institution is in homeostasis.

Thank you for caring; thank you for the privilege of working with you. It has been the most incredible and high honor of my life, and I hope that whatever life has in store for me beyond today will be a fraction of the excitement, the enthusiasm and the thrill of serving in this institution.

Thank you very much.

#### CALL OF THE HOUSE

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I move a call of the House.

A call of the House was ordered.

The call was taken by electronic device, and the following Members responded to their names:

[Roll No. 11]

#### ANSWERED "PRESENT"—356

Abercrombie	Camp	Doggett
Ackerman	Campbell	Doolittle
Aderholt	Canady	Doyle
Allen	Cannon	Dreier
Andrews	Cardin	Duncan
Arney	Carson	Edwards
Bachus	Castle	Ehlers
Baker	Chabot	Ehrlich
Baldacci	Chambliss	Emerson
Ballenger	Chenoweth	Engel
Barcia	Christensen	Ensign
Barr	Clayton	Etheridge
Barrett (NE)	Clement	Everett
Barrett (WI)	Clyburn	Ewing
Bartlett	Coburn	Farr
Barton	Combest	Fattah
Bass	Condit	Fazio
Bateman	Conyers	Filner
Bentsen	Cook	Foley
Bereuter	Cooksey	Forbes
Berman	Costello	Fossella
Berry	Cox	Fowler
Bilbray	Cramer	Fox
Billrakis	Crane	Franks (NJ)
Bishop	Crapo	Frelinghuysen
Blagojevich	Cubin	Furse
Bliley	Cummings	Gejdenson
Blumenauer	Cunningham	Gephardt
Boehlert	Davis (FL)	Gibbons
Boehner	Davis (IL)	Gilchrest
Bonilla	Davis (VA)	Gillmor
Borski	DeFazio	Gilman
Boswell	DeGette	Goode
Brady	Delahunt	Goodlatte
Brown (CA)	DeLauro	Goodling
Brown (FL)	Dellums	Gordon
Brown (OH)	Deutsch	Goss
Bryant	Dickey	Graham
Bunning	Dicks	Green
Callahan	Dingell	Greenwood
Calvert	Dixon	Gutierrez

Gutknecht	McCarthy (NY)	Royce
Hall (OH)	McCollum	Rush
Hall (TX)	McDade	Ryun
Hamilton	McDermott	Sabo
Hansen	McGovern	Salmon
Harman	McHale	Sanchez
Hastings (FL)	McIntosh	Sanders
Hastings (WA)	McIntyre	Sandlin
Hayworth	McKinney	Sanford
Hefley	McNulty	Sawyer
Hefner	Meehan	Saxton
Hill	Meek (FL)	Schaffer, Bob
Hilleary	Menendez	Schumer
Hilliard	Metcalfe	Scott
Hinchee	Mica	Sensenbrenner
Hinojosa	Millender-McDonald	Serrano
Hobson	Miller (CA)	Sessions
Hoekstra	Miller (FL)	Shadegg
Hooley	Minge	Shaw
Horn	Mink	Shays
Hostettler	Moakley	Sherman
Hoyer	Mollohan	Shimkus
Hulshof	Moran (KS)	Shuster
Inglis	Moran (VA)	Sisisky
Istook	Morella	Skaggs
Jackson (IL)	Murtha	Skelton
Jackson-Lee	Nadler	Slaughter
(TX)	Neal	Smith (NJ)
Jefferson	Nethercutt	Smith (TX)
Jenkins	Neumann	Smith, Adam
John	Ney	Smith, Linda
Johnson (WI)	Northup	Snowbarger
Johnson, E. B.	Norwood	Snyder
Johnson, Sam	Oberstar	Souder
Jones	Obey	Spence
Kanjorski	Olver	Spratt
Kaptur	Ortiz	Stabenow
Kasich	Owens	Stearns
Kelly	Packard	Stenholm
Kennedy (MA)	Pallone	Stokes
Kennelly	Pappas	Strickland
Kildee	Pascarell	Stump
Kilpatrick	Pastor	Stupak
Kim	Paul	Sununu
Kind (WI)	Paxon	Talent
King (NY)	Payne	Tanner
Kingston	Pease	Tauscher
Klecza	Pelosi	Tauzin
Klug	Peterson (PA)	Thompson
Knollenberg	Petri	Thornberry
Kolbe	Pickering	Thune
Kucinich	Pickett	Tiahrt
LaFalce	Pitts	Tierney
LaHood	Pombo	Torres
Lampson	Pomeroy	Towns
Lantos	Porter	Traficant
Largent	Portman	Turner
Latham	Poshard	Upton
Lazio	Price (NC)	Velazquez
Leach	Pryce (OH)	Vento
Levin	Quinn	Visclosky
Lewis (CA)	Radanovich	Walsh
Lewis (GA)	Rahall	Wamp
Lewis (KY)	Ramstad	Waters
Linder	Rangel	Watt (NC)
Lipinski	Redmond	Watts (OK)
Livingston	Regula	Waxman
LoBiondo	Reyes	Weldon (FL)
Lofgren	Riley	Wexler
Lowe	Rivers	Weygand
Lucas	Rodriguez	White
Maloney (CT)	Roemer	Whitfield
Maloney (NY)	Rogan	Wicker
Manton	Rogers	Wise
Manzullo	Rohrabacher	Wolf
Markey	Rothman	Woolsey
Martinez	Roukema	Young (FL)
Matsui	Roybal-Allard	
McCarthy (MO)		

□ 1421

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGAN). On this rollcall, 356 Members have recorded their presence by electronic device, a quorum.

Under the rule, further proceedings under the call are dispensed with.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 4, 1998.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,  
The Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a facsimile copy of letter received from Mr. Thomas R. Wilkey, Executive Director, State Board of Elections, State of New York, indicating that, according to the unofficial results for the Special Election held February 3, 1998, the Honorable Gregory Meeks was elected Representative in Congress for the Sixth Congressional District, State of New York.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,  
Clerk.

STATE OF NEW YORK,  
STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS,  
Albany, NY, February 4, 1998.

ROBIN H. CARLE,  
Clerk, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. CARLE: Enclosed please find the unofficial results of the Special Election held in the 6th Congressional District of New York on Tuesday, February 3, 1998. The results appear to indicate that candidate Gregory Meeks will be the apparent winner.

The Board of Canvassers will be meeting on Tuesday, February 24 to officially certify the official results, and you will be provided with an official certification at that time.

Sincerely,

THOMAS R. WILKEY,  
Executive Director.

#### SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE GREGORY W. MEEKS, OF NEW YORK, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from New York, Mr. GREGORY W. MEEKS, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest, and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), the Member-elect, along with the Members of the New York delegation come forward and will the Members please stand.

Mr. MEEKS appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the Congress of the United States.

### WELCOMING CONGRESSMAN MEEKS

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, many of us have the great task of succeeding Members of the House of Representatives that have left, as Reverend and Congressman Floyd Flake has, but indeed, the strong keep coming, and we are so fortunate that a young man a few years back was born in East Harlem, saw fit to go to Queens, got his training there, became an administrative judge for workmen's compensation, and then joined the great legislature of the State of New York in the New York State Assembly. And as I look in front of me, it looks like there is hardly a Member of the New York delegation in our Congress that did not serve in our State legislature.

Having served there for 6 years and working hard each and every day, he was selected by the African-Americans, as well as the Puerto Rican Hispanic Members of that group to head up the Black and Hispanic Caucus. He has worked hard, he has got two lovely daughters that are here with his wife, Simone-Marie. His brothers and his family are here to support him as they were during the great election that with more than a half a dozen candidates, he came through with 57 percent of that vote.

At this time I would like to yield to a senior member, the senior Republican Member of our delegation, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, Chairman RANGEL, serving as the chair of our New York delegation, and my colleagues of the New York delegation, and all of our colleagues, we are so pleased to be able to welcome Mr. MEEKS to the Congress.

Our retired colleague, Floyd Flake, amassed a distinguished record of congressional service. His dedication in fighting for the concerns of his 6th District, his patriotism, his hard work are a testament to the leadership that he displayed, and while Congressman Flake leaves his shoes to fill, his successor seems to me to be able to come with a great potential to do just that.

GREGORY MEEKS comes to the Congress after already having had a distinguished career in public service, graduating from Howard University Law School. He joined the Queens County District Attorney's Office, was quickly promoted to the Office of Special Narcotics Prosecutor, something Mr. RANGEL and I have been working on for a number of years in our battle against drugs. We are pleased to welcome a legislator with the experience and determination in fighting the war on drugs. Congressman MEEKS, I know while he was serving on the New York State Commission on Investigation, directed criminal and civil investigations and major organized crime figures, and we hope he will continue his devotion to

fighting crime as he did in the past. We want to commend you and we wish you well. I am pleased to welcome you and your two daughters, Ebony and Aja and your wife, Simone, to the pantheon of congressional families, and we are here ready to help you in your work. God bless.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, there are so many Members that would like to be heard, but a lot of people have to make trains and planes, and so we have in our delegation not only an outstanding Member from Queens County, but the Democratic county leader that was able to guide the membership of the great organization there so that they were able to make the proper decision for the election, TOM MANTON, for purposes of introducing our brand-new member.

### WELCOMING CONGRESSMAN MEEKS

(Mr. MANTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, our newly-elected Member, GREGORY MEEKS, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to welcome you, GREGORY and your family and all of your supporters in Southeast Queens from the 6th Congressional District to this great Hall. I am not going to be repetitive here, but I would just like to say that your credentials were impeccable, starting off after law school as a prosecutor, and later on as a judge in the worker's compensation system, and then your service in the New York State Assembly.

□ 1430

So you have come here, you have hit the ground running, and we welcome you and ask that you have a long career in these sacred halls.

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York yield?

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield to the Speaker.

The SPEAKER. It would please the Chair to recognize for his first time here the newly elected gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), and to recognize him on behalf of the House and offer him an opportunity to speak to the House.

### EXPRESSION OF THANKS FOR SUPPORT

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

The first feeling that I have is: God is good. God is good. He has truly blessed me, and but by His grace am I here today. He has blessed me for an individual who grew up in public housing and a product of public education to be able to go on and receive a degree at the great institution known as Howard University School of Law, which I am

proud of; to be blessed with individuals who are really responsible for me being here.

Mr. Speaker, it started with my mother, who is not with us any longer, but she is with us. She gave me the strength, the support, and the upbringing so that this day could be possible. She gave me the vision and the determination to make things happen, and I will be so ever thankful to God who blessed me with her as a mother.

I want to thank my dad, who is here, who always was behind me and taught me the lessons of life and family.

I want to bless and thank my wife, Simone-Marie, who gave her energy, her time, and gave me her permission to seek the office of the United States House of Representatives.

My sisters, Rosalyn and Janella, who are here, who worked diligently day and night on this campaign, thank you.

And the Lord blessed me with two beautiful daughters who I am so proud of for all that they are doing and how they are growing up. That is Ebony and Aja.

And, as indicated, my mother is not with me, but the Lord blessed me with a great mother-in-law, Miss Eleanor Sing.

Mr. Speaker, let me say thank you, particularly, to my political godfather, Bob Simmons, and all of the individuals who are up in the balcony who are responsible for that huge victory on February 3. I will never forget them, for they are why I am here to represent the constituency and the people of the 6th Congressional District.

I know that I have very big shoes to fill, and I can say that I am not Floyd Flake. I am GREGORY MEEKS. I am going to do the best I can. I believe that Floyd Flake was on the right path, the same path of many of the Members of this hall that I have admired for a long time. The path of Barbara Jordan who sat here. The path of Shirley Chisholm. The path of Adam Powell. The path of Brother DELLUMS. The path of Charlie Rangel. The path of Thomas Manton.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with you. I look forward to trying to make a difference in the lives of the people of this great country. I look forward to living the dream that Dr. King had that all of us will be able to walk together, talk together, live together under this big tent and this great Nation. Thank you very much.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair wishes to simply observe for the RECORD, if I might, that we are welcoming a new Member whom we are delighted to have with us and who we think has a great future. We are welcoming him on a day when we are losing a great Member who has had a great career and to whom we are all indebted for being a model of representing democracy in a free society.

So while we are saying good-bye to the gentleman from California (Mr.